

Message Text

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00238 232050Z

73

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 231543Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7022

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 238

EXDIS

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NG

SUBJECT: GON PROTESTS USE USG FACILITIES FOR PRINTING ANTI-
GOVERNMENT TRACTS

USIA/IAA FOR MCGINLEY AND PC FOR BELL

1. PAO AND I WERE SUMMONED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SABO
JANUARY 22 TO RECEIVE ORAL PROTEST CONCERNING USE
OF USIS AND PC FACILITIES BY NIGERIEN PROFESSOR TO PRINT
ANTI-GOVERNMENT TRACTS. SABO SAID THAT GASTON KABA HAD
CONFERRED TO SECURITY HE HAD REPRODUCE TRACTS AT AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER AND PEACE CORPS DURING PERIOD WHEN HE HAD
PERMISSION TO USE MACHINES FOR PRINTING CLASSROOM ENGLISH
EXERCISES. FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE OF QUOTE COMPLICITY OR
AT MINIMUM NEGLIGENCE UNQUOTE ON PART OF US GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS. I REJECTED OUTRIGHT CHARGE OF COMPLICITY BUT
ADMITTED THERE MIGHT BE A CASE OF LAXNESS IN EXERCISING
CONTROL OVER DUPLICATING MACHINE. I ASKED FOR FURTHER
DETAILS ESPECIALLY CONCERNING TIMING. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID
HE HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION BUT WOULD INQUIRE. I EXPRESSED
REGRETS AND ASSURED MINISTER WE WOULD INITIATE STRICTER CONTROL
AND WOULD DO OUR BEST TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENT IN FUTURE.

2. COMMENT: KABA HAD ADMITTED TO CURRENT PAO IN EARLY
NOVEMBER AND TO FORMER PC DIRECTOR MUCH EARLIER THAT HE HAD
IN FACT ABUSED PRIVILEGE AND RAN OFF ANTI-GOVERNMENT TRACTS
DURING PREVIOUS SPRING (BEFORE ARRIVAL CURRENT PAO AND PCD).
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HE APOLOGIZED FOR BREACH OF CONFIDENCE. HE ALSO CLAIMED AT TIME
HE HAD ADMITTED TO SECURITY HE HAD USED AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
AND PEACE CORPS FOR PRINTING TRACTS, AND MENTIONED TO SECURITY
THAT AMERICAN DIRECTORS THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF

HIS ACTIVITY. PAO AND I DISCUSSED INCIDENT IN NOVEMBER WITH
HORACE DAWSON DURING HIS VISIT TO NIAMEY. FULL REPORT SENT EARLY
DECEMBER DESK OFFICER KOOB BY PAO. I DECIDED AT TTIME THAT
BEST COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO LET MATTER RIDE BUT TO TIGHTEN
CONTROL OVER DUPLICATING MACHINE AND SUPPLIES. WILL REASSURE
FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEAR FUTURE THAT STRICT CONTROLS NOW IN EFFECT
AT USG FACILITIES AND ONLY SMALL NUMBER DESIGNATED PERSONS
AUTHORIZED ACCESS TO MIMEO MACHINES.
BUCHE

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